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No. XVII.

CAPSULE FOR CHAMPAGNE BOTTLES.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to AUGUSTUS BOSANQUET, *Esq., of Fenchurch Street, London, for his Capsule for Champagne Bottles; a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.*

32 *Fenchurch Street,*
Dec. 27, 1842.

SIR,

YOU are doubtless aware of the great difficulty that exists in transporting liquids subject to fermentation (though it be almost insensible) into climates of high temperature, such difficulties being much increased by the motion of the vessel in which they are conveyed; and it has hitherto been found almost impossible to convey champagne to the East Indies without so great a loss from ullage as to render most experiments of this sort not only profitless but injurious.

It is now some years since I have made experiments upon this subject; and I beg to submit to the Society a plan which, after years of trial, has hitherto been entirely successful, all wine sent out to hot climates, guarded according to the mode hereafter mentioned, having arrived in perfect order, and, in every instance, entirely free from ullage.

The cause of disappointment arises from the fermenting qualities of the wine being called into increased activity by heat and motion, which, pressing the cork strongly against the confining wire, cuts into its substance, and thereby, allowing it to work upward, permits the escape of the wine.

To preclude the possibility of this, the cork being left about the thickness of two penny-pieces above the neck of the bottle, the capsule is placed upon it, the under concavity of which receives above half the thickness of the cork; a strong wire is then strained over the top, and the capsule is brought as nearly as possible to the bottle's neck without actual contact. The neck of the bottle is then immersed in the usual resinous mixture, and the cork being defended alike from the effects of insects without and from pressure within, the wine will reach its destination in perfect order, and maintain its condition for an indefinite period.

It is presupposed that the cork is driven in with the usual precautions of sufficient length, and that the bottle is of a proper thickness; the wine itself being of the character, and in the state adapted for the purpose. I do not enter into any detail in these particulars, as foreign to my present purpose, adding only that although thin bottles will break and wine unfit for the purpose will arrive out of condition, in no case will ullage be found to have taken place.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

To the Secretary of the Society of Arts. AUGUSTUS BOSANQUET.

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32 *Fenchurch Street,*
January 28, 1843.

SIR,

I AM favoured with your note informing me that the stopper for champagne bottles will be brought before the Committee on Thursday next at eight P.M., and requesting me to attend.

I regret to say, that residing ten miles from London, it will not be in my power to attend at that hour, but if

there be any points that the Committee desire to question me upon, I shall be happy to answer them in writing to the best of my ability.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

To the Secretary of the Society of Arts. AUGUSTUS BOSANQUET.

SIR, *London, August* 5, 1843.

I HAVE the pleasure to send you the capsule as fitted to the neck of the bottle in the ordinary way, at your request.

I would observe that it is desirable to leave as small a portion of cork above the neck of the bottle as is consistent with its easy removal from the bottle, by being pushed on one side by the finger and thumb, when the capsule is taken off the bottle for its liberation. It would, perhaps, be of little moment if it were necessary to draw the cork with a screw, but, as this might appear objectionable to some, a small concavity has been left in the capsule to allow the cork to remain above the neck. If much length of cork were left, the capsule might be pushed on one side by the excessive pressure from within, and even if this were not the case, the cork itself being much compressed, and thus driven upwards, an escape would be allowed for the liquor within. When, therefore, the capsule is in its place, about the thickness of a shilling to that of a penny-piece should remain between the neck and the capsule, the latter by no means coming in contact with the glass, which might split it, as well as prevent the pressure upon the cork.

In the conversation I had with you respecting the origin of this simple invention, I detailed to you that it had its rise in an experiment made upon a bottle far

out at sea, which when let down empty came up full, with the cork forced in; and upon the experiment being repeated with a tighter cork and less time, the cork was found more tightly jammed in its place than when let down, yet the water had oozed in by its sides, and was gradually filling the bottle. If this passage of liquid could take place with a cylindrical cork, it struck me that so yielding a material could never be made a barrier to the egress of liquid by the common process of wiring, but that by putting a solid cap, although the conical shape of the cork, as driving upwards, would favour the escape of the liquid, yet that its tendency to spread at the sides would counterbalance that evil; and if the cork be good, its saturation with liquid, and the pressure upon it combined together, will be found to make it spread like the head of a rivet, and retain the liquid committed to it, as long as the bottle, which should be of considerable strength, remains unbroken by the powerful pressure from within; at least, I have never seen nor heard of an ullage in a bottle of effervescent wine so corked, and several years have elapsed since the experiment was first tried, both in the East and West Indies.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

Francis Whishaw, Esq. AUGUSTUS BOSANQUET.
Secretary, &c. &c.

SIR, 32 *Fenchurch Street, Feb.* 7, 1843.

THE subject to which you refer occupied my mind for so long a time, and I found so much difficulty and delay in getting my experience carried out in France, that I cannot speak as to the precise period of the invention. But the enclosed copy of a note in answer to one of mine, or,

rather, an application from me, will, perhaps, be all the Committee desire.

The writer is to be found at his address, and, I doubt not, would yield any information the Committee might desire.

Francis Whishaw, Esq., Aug. Bosanquet.
Secretary, &c. &c.

My Dear Sir, 151 *Fenchurch Street, 7 Feb.* 1843.

In answer to your note of yesterday respecting the date of which your invention for corking champagne by means of capsules was put into my hands, I beg to state the pattern was received by me from yourself and forwarded to France in the latter part of 1834, and the first case of champagne so prepared I find entered in my books, as received from France and delivered to your late firm, on the 1st of April, 1835. I suppose this statement is all you wish, it can be verified by my books, as also by those of the house in France, who shipped the wine if necessary.

I remain, Sir, &c.

Augustus Bosanquet, Esq. (Signed) P. Scheydt.

No. XVIII.

SHIELD FOR SORE NIPPLES.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Wansbrough, King's Road, Chelsea, for his Leaden Shield for Sore Nipples; Models of which have been placed in the Society's Repository.

Sir, *King's Road, Chelsea, Nov.* 1, 1842.

I beg to submit to the notice of the Society of Arts the accompanying pair of leaden shields; they are a pattern